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COMPETITIVE DIVISION - PRACTITIONER

Incorporating NOAA/National Weather Service in the All-Hazards Planning Process

The National Weather Service (NWS) 2019-2022 Strategic Plan calls on the agency to respond to changing customer needs, by rigorously assessing its interactions with public safety, emergency management, and water resource management officials. NWS aims to ensure that there is an appropriate connection between forecasts and warnings and the decisions made by the emergency management community.

Some hazardous events more obviously involve weather and water related impacts than others. With this in mind, recent liaison efforts with FEMA in the western United States have resulted in more thorough inclusion of NWS services in all-hazard planning. Similar to other ESF partners, NWS capabilities are increasingly being called out specifically in each community lifeline's "Tabs" or appendices within all-hazard plans. Inclusion of NWS capabilities ensures that potential impacts from weather and water hazards are not overlooked in a rapidly evolving situation.

This presentation will highlight the benefits of actively involving NWS in Emergency Support Function activities at all levels of emergency management. Relationship building increases understanding of the weather and water impacts-based decision support services that the NWS can provide as Technical Specialists, even during exercises and real-world events that may not be directly related to weather. NWS

continues to develop a Weather Ready Nation by ensuring decision-makers can

make well informed decisions and improve responsiveness to protect lives and

livelihoods.

Presentation Theme: The theme of this presentation is the benefits of practice and

experience making weather and hydrologic support a part of the preparedness and

planning process ahead of disasters caused by all-hazards.

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